

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action the examiner finally rejected claims 6-7, 12, and 20-21 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the article "Eastman Chemical Company ..." ("Eastman" herein) in view of the software package "BlendPro" taught in the article "Solvents – continuing to evolve .." ("BlendPro" herein). The examiner rejected claims 9 and 22 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eastman in view of BlendPro, in further view of WorldWide Testing (of record). And the examiner rejected claims 10-11 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eastman in view of BlendPro, in further view of WorldWide Testing (of record), in further view of official notice regarding e-commerce.

Claims 6-7 and 9-12 are directed to a networked computer system configured for commerce in chemical products. Claims 20-22 are directed to a method for processing a chemical product transaction.


35 USC 103(a) REJECTION OF CLAIMS 6-7, 12, AND 20-21

The examiner rejected claims 6-7, 12, and 20-21 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eastman in view of BlendPro. Applicant traverses because the examiner does not meet her burden of providing a prima facie case of obviousness by pointing out any teaching or suggestion within Eastman or BlendPro to combine their teachings save for generic suggestions of convenience and lower cost in the individual instances. Applicant respectfully submits that this falls short of suggesting any advantage to combining the teachings or any specific motivation to make the combination.

Further, even, *arguendo*, were the combination of references to be made applicant's invention is not taught or suggested. The examiner points to the disclosure of an internet marketplace for paint and coatings in Eastman but concedes (Office Action mailed 4/7/04, page 5, paragraph 3)

Applicant respectfully requests the examiner to reconsider his rejections in view of applicant's remarks and to pass applicant's claims 6-7, 9-12, and 20-22 to allowance at this time. Applicant's agent is available in order to expedite the allowance of this case at 215-641-7822 or by FAX at 215-619-1918.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ronald D. Bakule".

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